

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30

INTRODUCED BY ROBERTS, CLARK

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO REVIEW THE PROGRAMS AND STATUTES OF VARIOUS STATES IN CREATING HUNTING LICENSE PREFERENCES FOR LANDOWNERS, WITH THE GOAL OF CREATING HUNTING LICENSE PREFERENCES FOR LANDOWNERS WHO PRACTICE SOUND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES.

WHEREAS, previous sessions of the Legislature have enacted a number of laws providing preference to landowners in obtaining hunting licenses, which laws are codified in sections 87-1-266(2) AND (3), 87-1-301(5)(B), 87-2-501(3) ~~and (4)~~ THROUGH (5), 87-2-511(1), 87-2-512(1)(E), 87-2-513, ~~and~~ 87-2-520, AND 87-2-705, MCA; and

WHEREAS, the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commission and the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks have adopted rules and regulations in administering those statutes; and

WHEREAS, the adopted rules and regulations reflect preferences to meet individual situations and conditions; and

WHEREAS, there has been no comprehensive study of these preferences to determine if they are effective in recognizing the contributions of landowners in maintaining healthy wildlife populations and if they are consistent with sound wildlife management principles.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to:

(1) evaluate existing statutes that grant a landowner preference in obtaining a big game hunting license or licenses OR PERMIT OR PERMITS OR IN SPONSORING ANOTHER PERSON TO RECEIVE A BIG GAME LICENSE OR PERMIT;

(2) compare the system in Montana for granting those licenses with the statutes, preferences, and administrative rules for similar licenses in other states surrounding Montana; and

(3) assess the impact of granting such licenses on the various wildlife populations and on public-hunting

1 opportunities for both residents and nonresidents.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be  
3 presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review  
5 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2006.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,  
7 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 60th Legislature.

8 - END -